

Dry cask storage—the method proposed by a private entity that wants to store waste on the Skull Valley site in Utah—is currently being used at 33 nuclear power plants around the country. As approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dry cask containers can safely store waste for at least 100 years. We should not subject citizens to the dangers posed by transporting it through their communities when it can remain where it is.

The Spent Nuclear Fuel On-Site Storage Security Act of 2005 would require commercial nuclear utilities to transfer nuclear waste from spent nuclear fuel pools into dry storage casks. For spent fuel currently in pools, a contractor licensed to handle spent nuclear fuel would have up to 6 years, to allow sufficient time for cooling and construction, to transfer spent nuclear fuel from pools into dry casks. Any new spent nuclear fuel produced after enactment, also has no more than 6 years to cool, before being transferred into dry casks. Such continuous transfer would mean that the pools are never at capacity, leaving less waste exposed and making the site safer. This bill would also require the Department of Energy to take title of all spent nuclear fuel currently in on-site dry cask storage and would even compensate the utility companies for expenses associated with transferring and storing the waste.

This means that DOE will be responsible for possession, stewardship, maintenance, and monitoring of the spent nuclear fuel on-site, which is entirely appropriate. DOE was supposed to begin taking title to spent nuclear fuel in 1998, but because of the myriad of technical, scientific, legal and political problems surrounding the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, this has not happened. Taking title to spent nuclear fuel fulfills the federal government's obligation and commitment to retake control over nuclear materials. I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

#### NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and thank you to the many grandparents and other relatives in California and across the Nation who are providing loving homes to some of our most fragile citizens. Children who may have suffered from neglect or abuse through the death of a parent, military deployment, poverty or other causes can be raised in warm, stable homes through subsidized guardianship programs.

Dedicated relatives who step forward to offer such care—sometimes at considerable personal sacrifice—guarantee these children the safe and nurturing upbringing that will enable them to be tomorrow's leaders. Today there are more than 6 million children living in relative-headed households, and I am proud to honor their service during National Caregiver Month and throughout the rest of the year.

H. RES. 438 (ON UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY RESOLUTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS)

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very important bipartisan resolution calling on member states of the United Nations to stop unfairly criticizing Israel and to promote a more balanced approach to the challenges in the Middle East.

In June of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted a resolution condemning anti-semitic statements made at U.N. meetings and by U.N. member states. It was proper and appropriate that we publicly and vocally condemn some of the outrageous statements made by U.N. officials and member states.

However, there also is a more subtle form of anti-semitism that has been taking place at the United Nations for far too long—the alarming rate at which the U.N. General Assembly has considered and adopted anti-Israel resolutions.

As noted in the text of Mr. Rothman's measure, 21 of the 71 resolutions adopted by roll-call votes during the 59th session of the General Assembly dealt with Israel, and in recent years, the General Assembly and Security Council have introduced and approved hundreds of measures and resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel.

At a time when the international community is confronted with crises such as the ongoing terror campaign being waged by Al Qaeda against democracies in every corner of the world, the tragic genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and the continued spread of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, the U.N. General Assembly has seen fit to devote nearly a third of its time to castigating the state of Israel.

These unbalanced and discriminatory anti-Israel resolutions have been adopted by overwhelming margins. Meanwhile, there has been a disturbing lack of condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to not only support this resolution, but also to carry its message to the ambassadors, foreign ministers and heads of state with whom they meet on a daily basis: The mistreatment of Israel at the hands of the United Nations has not gone unnoticed, and it is no longer acceptable.

Furthermore, this obsessive and inappropriate focus on Israel at the United Nations only serves to harm that institution's credibility and to undermine the U.N.'s ability to serve as an honest broker in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

INTRODUCING THE KENDELL  
FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP AS-  
SISTANCE ACT OF 2005

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Kendell Frederick Citizenship

Assistance Act of 2005, legislation honoring one of America's fallen heroes who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Army Reserve Specialist Kendell Frederick's life may have been spared had he not made a fateful trip to provide his fingerprints for his citizenship application.

This bill would lessen the burden non-citizens serving in the U.S. military encounter while attempting to navigate a naturalization process that is all too often fraught with inefficiency and indifference.

Amidst car bombs and insurgent attacks, Specialist Frederick of Randallstown, Maryland, had a dual struggle of fighting the enemy in Iraq and the requirements for U.S. citizenship. All the while, his mother endured both the stress of having a child in a combat zone and the frustration of trying to assist her son meet the bureaucratic demands of naturalization.

Eventually, only one obstacle remained in Specialist Frederick's path—providing the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services with his fingerprints.

Although the U.S. Military already had a copy, Specialist Frederick was required to travel through the battlefields of Iraq in order to provide a duplicate. Tragically, he did not survive this final journey and was awarded his citizenship posthumously.

Last month, Kendell Frederick achieved in death in a matter of minutes what he had so long fought to obtain in life, his U.S. citizenship. Tragically, he never enjoyed the privileges of U.S. citizenship—he would never cast a vote to determine those who govern, nor would he ever know the comfort of being fully embraced as an American by the very Nation he defended to his last breathe.

Fortunately, today we have an opportunity to honor the ultimate sacrifice of Specialist Frederick by doing what is right for the approximately 40,000 non-citizens who are serving on active duty in the U.S. military, including 3,200 brave men and women who are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2002, President Bush signed an executive order that provides immediate eligibility for naturalization to active-duty members of the U.S. military during a period of military hostility, bypassing the waiting period that otherwise would apply to them. This was an important step—but we owe our brave soldiers more.

In clear and plain terms, those who are prepared to sacrifice and die for this country deserve a more efficient, common sense naturalization process that bestows to them the admiration and benefits of American citizenship befitting their service. For these reasons, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and I have sponsored the Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act of 2005.

Our proposed legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security use the fingerprints provided by soldiers at the time they enlist in the Armed Forces to satisfy the fingerprinting requirements associated with their applications for citizenship.

New soldiers would be notified in writing about how to obtain citizenship; and the Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to update the appropriate application, guidebook, and Web site maintained by the Department of Homeland Security within 30 days of a change to law or regulation regarding the naturalization process.

Moreover, our bill would establish the position of Citizenship Advocate at each military entry processing station to provide information on the naturalization process to members of the armed forces.

Finally, we would also require the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to study the implementation of this act, including an evaluation of how technology may be used to improve the efficiency of the naturalization process for members of the armed forces. The GAO would then report to Congress its findings and recommendations.

Our bill emphasizes common sense over bureaucratic thinking and clarity over confusion, to establish a naturalization process that is more soldier-friendly and efficient.

Given the life-or-death battles soldiers like Specialist Kendell Frederick routinely face on foreign soil; let us never forget they need not battle red tape here at home. Support our troops by supporting this legislation.

#### TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican tax bill.

As we approach the end of the year, I wonder 'How will this year be remembered?' For the deepening quagmire in Iraq? Will we remember 2005 as a year of hardships? For Katrina, for Rita?

Certainly this has been a year of great economic difficulties for low and middle income families. The poorest residents of the gulf coast were most affected by the devastating hurricanes, and the poorest Americans have shouldered a disproportionate share of the burden in Iraq.

The Republican tax bill is just another example of the disdain the Majority in Congress has for its low and middle income citizens. Recently, this Congress cut Food Stamps, student loans, child support and Medicaid.

Now the Administration is rewarding the rich. In the proposed tax cuts, over 50% of the Capital Gains and Dividends Rate Cut will benefit people who make more than one million dollars. The 55% of American households that make less than \$40,000 will get a tax break of only \$7 while the households that make more than \$1 million will receive an average tax break of \$32,000.

I support responsible spending, and balancing the budget, but this tax cut and the budget cuts of last month accomplish neither of these goals. In fact, these bills will actually increase the deficit by \$16 billion. And at what benefit? So that some of our wealthiest citizens can save a few extra dollars?

President Bush has gone on the offensive. He is touting an improved economy by pointing to job statistics from this most recent quarter. But the economy is not improving where we need it to. Middle class Americans are worse off than they were 4 years ago. The average two-earner family needs to work more to pay for health care, housing, college, and transportation than they did in 2001.

Middle class families are forced to work more and save less. This means less time to

spend with family and less money to put away for retirement.

This is not how I want to remember 2005. I don't want to remember 2005 as a year that the government heaped unnecessary burdens upon American families. Stealing from the poor and middle class and giving to the rich, while increasing the deficit, is hardly responsible. I urge you to vote no on the Republican tax cuts.

#### ESTABLISHING A MEMORIAL WITHIN KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 14, 2005*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill introduced by my colleague, Representative ED CASE. His bill to establish a memorial within Kalaupapa National Historical Park would serve to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866–1969.

The sad history of Kalaupapa is well known within the State of Hawaii. Two tragedies occurred on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the north shore of the island of Moloka'i. The first is the removal of indigenous people in 1865 and 1895. The removal of Hawaiians from where they had lived for 900 years cut the cultural ties and associations of generations of people from the 'aina (land).

The second tragedy is the forced isolation of sick people to this remote place from 1866 until 1969. The establishment of an isolation settlement, first at Kalawao and then at Kalaupapa, tore apart Hawaiian society as the Kingdom of Hawaii, and subsequently the territory of Hawai'i, tried to control the feared disease of leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease. The impact of broken connections with the 'aina and of family members "lost" to Kalaupapa are still felt in Hawai'i today.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, established in 1980, contains the physical setting for these stories. Within its boundaries are the historic Hansen's disease settlements of Kalaupapa and Kalawao. The community of Kalaupapa, on the leeward side of Kalaupapa Peninsula, is still home for many surviving Hansen's disease patients, whose memories and experiences are cherished values. In Kalawao on the windward side of the peninsula are the churches of Siloama, established in 1866, and Saint Philomena, associated with the work of Father Damien (Joseph De Veuster), a great humanitarian who gave his life to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those banished to the settlement.

Kalaupapa retains the memories and spirit of all those who lived there. Someday, the last Hansen's disease patient living in Kalaupapa will pass away. A memorial will be a permanent tribute to the brave souls who called Kalaupapa home. I support this legislation and hope my colleagues will also extend their support.

#### ROMANIA'S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 14, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month I introduced a resolution, H. Res. 578, expressing disappointment that the Government of Romania has instituted a virtual ban on intercountry adoptions that has very serious implications for the welfare and well-being of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), I am pleased to be joined as original cosponsors by the Commission's Ranking House Member, Representative CARDIN, fellow Commissioners Representative PITTS and PENCE as well as Chairman of the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere Representative BURTON, and Representative NORTHUP, COSTELLO, JO ANN DAVIS, TIAHRT, BRADLEY and FRANK.

Mr. Speaker, the children of Romania, and all children, deserve to be raised in permanent families. Timely adoption of H. Res. 578 will put the Congress on record:

Supporting the desire of the Government of Romania to improve the standard of care and well-being of children in Romania;

Urging the Government of Romania to complete the processing of the intercountry adoption cases which were pending when Law 273/2004 was enacted;

Urging the Government of Romania to amend its child welfare and adoption laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestically and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry adoption by persons other than biological grandparents;

Urging the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work collaboratively with the Government of Romania to achieve these ends; and

Requesting that the European Union and its member States not impede the Government of Romania's efforts to place orphaned or abandoned children in permanent homes in a manner that is consistent with Romania's obligations under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

In 1989, the world watched in horror as images emerged from Romania of more than 100,000 underfed, neglected children living in hundreds of squalid and inhumane institutions throughout that country. Six weeks after the end of the dictatorial regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, I visited Romania and witnessed the misery and suffering of these institutionalized children. They were the smallest victims of Ceausescu's policies which undermined the family and fostered the belief that children were often better cared for in an institution than by their families.

Americans responded to this humanitarian nightmare with an outpouring of compassion. For years now, Americans have volunteered their labor and donated money and goods to help Romania improve conditions in these institutions. Many families in the United States also opened their hearts to Romania's children through adoption. Between 1990 and 2004, more than 8,000 children found permanent